

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /057 W

-----140816Z 020457 /17

O 140724Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6096

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION PARTY US VISITS

REF: STATE 50613

1. EMBOFF (PER REFTTEL) INFORMED WATANABE MARCH 10 OF DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN ARRANGING CGP SCHEDULE DURING PREFERRED APRIL 4-10 PERIOD, POINTING OUT HEAVY SCHEDULE OF WASHINGTON VISITORS EXPECTED FOR BALANCE OF SPRING. HE ENCOURAGED CGP TO CONSIDER AIMING AT LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL, NOTING INTEREST US HAD IN RECEIVING CGP DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON AT APPROPRIATE TIME AND OUR DESIRE TO ASSURE IT HAD MEANINGFUL SCHEDULE. WATANABE WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED. HAVING PREMATURELY ANNOUNCED DATES, HE SAID, PARTY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING WHAT WOULD LIKELY BE VIEWED AS "REJECTION" OF VISIT BY US. WATANABE SAID PARTY'S BASIC AIM WAS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH US AND HE ALSO HAD PERSONAL INTEREST IN "EDUCATING" SEC GEN YANO. HE THEN ASKED THREE QUESTIONS: (1) WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO GO AHEAD WITH YANO-LED MISSION APRIL 4-10 OR THEREABOUTS ON UNDERSTANDING MISSION WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH ONLY ONE HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL, I.E., VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OR OTHER CABINET OFFICIAL? (2) IF NOT, WHEN
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MIGHT BE CONVENIENT? (3) IF SUCH VISIT WERE IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE EARLY JUNE, WHAT KIND OF RECEPTION COULD LOWER LEVEL CGP DELEGATION, I.E., WITHOUT YANO, EXPECT IF IT WERE TO GO EITHER AT PREFERRED TIME OR BEFORE EARLY JUNE? WATANABE SAID HE WOULD REPORT EMBOFF'S APPROACH TO YANO BUT CGP WOULD MAKE NO FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL IT HAD RECEIVED ANSWERS TO FOREGOING QUESTIONS AND HAD TIME TO

CONSIDER PROBLEM FURTHER.

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SOMEHOW ACCOMMODATING CGP IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. SINCE FOR ITS OWN REASONS CGP MAY WISH TO STICK TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE, WE MIGHT INDICATE RECEPTIVITY TO LOWER LEVEL VISIT (WITH MEETINGS AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND POSSIBLY UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL) APRIL 4-10 OR THEREABOUTS. OPTIMUM SOLUTION, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE TO SUGGEST VISIT IN LATTER HALF MAY. WITH CALL ON ONLY ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL AS SUGGESTED BY WATANABE. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWER TO WATANABE'S THREE QUESTIONS.

3. IN RELATED EVENT, JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JCP) SEC GEN ISHIBASHI, ACCOMPANIED BY PARTY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR DEN AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR SUGIYAMA, CALLED ON CHARGE MARCH 11 TO REQUEST EMBASSY HELP IN ARRANGING VISIT TO US BY JSP DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY CHAIRMAN NARITA. ISHIBASHI REFERRED TO SUCCESSFUL EDA VISIT AND NOTED THAT DURING 1976 LOWER HOUSE CAMPAIGN, JSP HAD PLEDGED TO SEND DELEGATION TO US AND WAS NOW READY TO CARRY PLEDGE OUT. DELEGATION WISHED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT AND WOULD GO WHENEVER THAT WAS POSSIBLE.

4. CHARGE SIAD HE HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED POSSIBLE JSP TRIP TO US WITH DEPARTMENT BUT HAD IMPRESSION PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE SO BUSY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR FUKUDA AND OTHER VIP VISITS AS WELL AS LONDON SUMMIT THAT APPOINTMENTS WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE UNTIL AFTER SUMMIT AND PROBABLY VERY DIFFICULT FOR SOME WEEKS THEREAFTER. CHARGE SAID THAT JSP DELEGATION WOULD HAVE BETTER CHANCE FOR HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS IF VISIT WERE MADE IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. ISHIBASHI SIMPLY REPLIED THAT DELEGATION HAPPY TO GO WHENEVER PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT COULD BE ARRANGED. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF JSP'S DESIRE AND GET IN TOUCH WITH JSP AS SOON AS ANSWER RECEIVED.

5. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL FOR JSP TO VISIT WASHINGTON. BALANCE WITHIN PARTY TILTED MARKEDLY TOWARD EXTREME LEFT AT RECENT JSP CONVENTION AND LUKEWARM WASHINGTON RESPONSE WOULD, WE BELIEVE, LEAD TO PROMPT JSP DECISION NOT TO GO AND CHORUS FROM JSP LEFTWING OF "WE TOLD YOU SO," NUDGING PARTY EVEN FURTHER LEFT. TO AVOID THIS WE HOPE THAT IF APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT NOT POSSIBLE AT ANY TIME, DEPARTMENT MIGHT OBTAIN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO NARITA CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT AND ONE OR

TWO HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS AT CONVENIENT TIME, PERHAPS
LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. THIS WE BELIEVE WOULD OFFER
BEST CHANCE OF ENCOURAGING VISIT AND STRENGTHEN MODERATE
VIEWS WITHIN PARTY.

6. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE SOME INDICATION OF APPOINTMENTS
JSP COULD EXPECT IF IT PREFERRED TO SEND (PRESUMABLY
LOWER LEVEL) DELEGATION IN LATE APRIL OR MAY. THIS
SCENARIO PRESUPPOSES THAT CGP AND PERHAPS DSP COULD
ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED AT COMPARABLE LEVEL(S) BEFORE
EARLY JUNE.
SHOESMITH

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